

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 24,2020

**Report Number:** IN2020-0047

**Report Name:** State of Maharashtra Allows Home Delivery of Liquor During Lockdown

**Country:** India

**Post:** Mumbai

**Report Category:** Beverages, Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation, Wine, Retail Foods

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**Approved By:** Lazaro Sandoval

**Report Highlights:**

On May 11, the State of Maharashtra issued an order permitting the home delivery of liquor within state limits during the lockdown period. On May 19, the state issued new guidelines permitting the home delivery of liquor in ‘red zones’ effective May 22 - 31. Given that Mumbai–Maharashtra state’s capital and the most populous city nationwide–is classified as a “red zone,” the state’s decision to permit the city’s liquor vendors to deliver will generate much needed revenue to offset losses experienced during the past two months due to the lockdown. Nonetheless, the home delivery of liquor will depend upon the consent of the local district collector and municipal commissioner for each respective zone or city.

## General Overview

On May 11, the Government of Maharashtra issued an order (see copy below) permitting home delivery of liquor within the state, subject to certain conditions. As per the order, vendors that currently hold FL-II (*license for sale of foreign liquor*), FL/BR-II (*license for sale of beer in sealed bottles for off consumption*), and FL/W-II licenses (*license for retail sale of wine granted only to the manufacturers of wine to be located on the premises of manufactory*) are permitted to sell spirits, beer, mild liquor, and wines as per their license.

Vendors can only sell to customers who hold a valid permit, and products must be sold at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP). According to the 1949 Bombay Prohibition Act, the purchase, possession, or use of any liquor or alcohol without a valid permit is prohibited. Citizens can apply for a one-day/one-year/lifelong online permit on the [Maharashtra Excise website](#). Additional guidelines were issued to district officials for ensuring compliance with the order. Vendors must also comply with certain conditions related to staff size, displaying vendor contact details and sales timings prominently outside the premises, as well as instructions for delivery personnel.

Home deliveries of liquor will be allowed in all the zones, but will be closely monitored in ‘red zones’ due to the high number of COVID-19 cases (see annexure below from the [Maharashtra Chief Minister’s twitter page](#)). The delivery of liquor in red zones will depend upon the consent of the local district collector and municipal commissioner based on their risk assessment. As per the notification, the cities of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Solapur, Aurangabad, Malegaon, Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Akola and Amravati are classified as red zones.

Importers of alcoholic beverages (specifically wines and spirits) have taken a hit financially, due to higher interest payments on stocks stored at bonded warehouses. Indian Customs charges 15 percent interest on all duty-payable goods held in bonded warehouses after the 90th day. There are concerns that charges will grow significantly as the hospitality sector is effectively shut down with no plans of ordering new wine and spirits supplies in the immediate future.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not be viewed, under any circumstance, as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

### Details of Notification:

**Type of Regulation:** Notification

**Public Notice Date:** May 11, 2020

### Proposed Date of Adoption:

Effective May 15, 2020 in all orange and green zones

Effective May 22, 2020 (in red zone)

**Products Affected:** All categories of liquor

**Agency in Charge:** Home Department, Government of Maharashtra

**Government of Maharashtra, Revised Guidelines During the Extended Period of Lockdown for the Containment of COVID-19 in the State, Annexure III – May 19, 2020**

**Annexure III**

**Coronavirus Lockdown 4.0**

What's allowed & not allowed in Maharashtra

Activity	Red Zone	Remaining Areas	Containment
Travel- Air, train, metro	No	No	No
Inter-state road movement	No	No	No
Education Institutions	No	No	No
Hospitality- Hotels	No	No	No
Shopping Malls	No	No	No
Places of worship & large gatherings	No	No	No
Liquor shops	Yes / Home Delivery	Yes	No
Age>65, <10, Pregnant-Outing	No	No	No
Medical Clinic, OPD	Yes	Yes	No
Taxi, cab, rickshaw	No	1+2	No
4 wheeler	Essential	1+2	No
2 wheeler	Essential	1	No
Inter-district plying of bus <sup>(2)</sup>	No	No	No
Intra-district plying of bus	No	Yes	No
Supply of goods	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industries (Urban)	Essential	Yes	No
Industries (Rural)	N/A	Yes	No
Urban in-situ construction	Yes	Yes	No
Other private construction sites	No	Yes	No
Urban standalone shops	Ltd	Yes	No
Essential goods shops	Yes	Yes	Yes
E-Com essential goods	Yes	Yes	No
E-Com non-essential goods	Yes	Yes	No
Private Offices	No	Yes	No
Govt. Offices	5% subject to Minimum 10	Yes - 100%	No
Agri activities	No	Yes	No
Bank & Finance	Yes	Yes	No
Courier & Postal	Yes	Yes	No
Movement for medical emergencies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barber shops, spas, saloons	No	No	No
Stadiums without spectators	No	Yes	No
Home Delivery Restaurants	Yes	Yes	No
Sub Registrar/ RTO/DyRTO	Yes	Yes	No

*This is just for convenience and has to be read with main order.*

Government of Maharashtra Excise Order – May 11, 2020

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**ORDER**

Home Department,  
Mantralaya,  
Madam Cama Marg,  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,  
Mumbai 400 032.  
Dated the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

Maharashtra Prohibition Act. No.FLR-0520/COVID/C.R.1/EXC-2 - In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (f) and (n) of section 139 of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act (XXV of 1949); and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Government of Maharashtra hereby, permits the licensee holding the licenses in Form FL-II, FL/BR-II, FL/W-II, as appended to the Bombay Liquor Rules, 1953, to sell the IMFL- Spirits, Beer, Mild Liquor, Wines, to the permit holders by effecting delivery at the home address of the permit holder, subject to the conditions, specified hereunder:-

**CONDITIONS**

1. The licensee shall sell the IMFL- Spirits, Beer, Mild Liquor, Wines only in respect of the liquor for which he is licensed to sale.
2. The licensee shall effect sale and delivery of the foreign liquor only from within the area of the licensed

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premises and on the day and during the hour as specified.

3. The sale of liquor under this order to the permit holder by effecting delivery of the permitted liquor to the home address may be effected only if the permit holder places an order for sale of the concerned liquor.

4. The licensee shall ensure that the persons deployed for the delivery of liquor use mask and also use hand-sanitizers at frequent intervals.

5. This order shall be in force and effective until the orders of Lockdown issued by the Government from time to time under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (Act 53 of 2005) or any other Act are in force in the State.

6. The Government may at any time and at its discretion either modify or rescind the same.

By order and in the name of the  
Governor of Maharashtra,



(Valsa Nair Singh)  
Principal Secretary (Excise)  
to Government of Maharashtra.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.